



SAFER CORNWALL

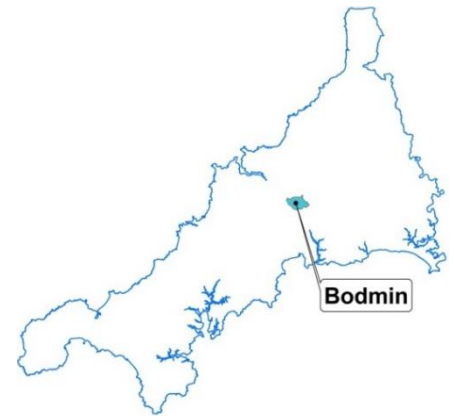
Kernow Salwa

Safer Bodmin Town Profile 2021



Introduction

This profile provides a **picture of crime and community safety issues** for this area. It compares the Bodmin town area with the average for other large towns in Cornwall (towns with a population of 10,000 or more), described within this profile as "urban". The time period for **this profile covers the last two years**, so we are comparing a year in pandemic conditions against a year when we were largely pandemic free. The profile also incorporates socio-economic, health¹ and community safety profiles that are available for this area.



Safer Bodmin was established in 2016 to facilitate and support a **co-ordinated multi-agency approach to community safety** issues to improve feelings of safety and public reassurance, reduce the risk of harm to residents and protect vulnerable groups. The multi-agency group involves local community and voluntary sector agencies in the work of the partnership and encourages social inclusion and participation through inviting all partners to actively be involved in the problem-solving process and sharing a sense of pride in their town.

key statistics

	Current population of Bodmin town area is 16,440	31% are aged under 25 27% Cornwall / 30% England
People		20% are aged over 65 24% Cornwall / 18% England
	1 in 5 live in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England	
Vulnerable groups	21% of children are living in poverty (16% in Cornwall and 19% across England)	Education & skills
	5% of households lack central heating	
Housing	7% in Cornwall 3% across England	Economy
	22% of people have a limiting long-term illness	
Health & wellbeing	21% in Cornwall 18% across England	Access & transport
		21% of households do not have a car
		17% in Cornwall 26% across England

¹ Network area [Community Profiles](#) and [Health Profiles](#) are available from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Public Health) website pages

Except where stated this profile provides information for **the geographical area representing the Bodmin town area as defined by Local Insight (communityinsight.org)**; comparisons are drawn with the average for other large towns in Cornwall (with a population of 10k or more, also described as "urban") and Cornwall as a whole.

What is happening with crime in Cornwall?

Cornwall's crime rate remains low and we have the third lowest crime rate in our most similar national family group, which is 21% lower than the average seen across the group. The **volume of crime continues to reduce**, falling by 6% or 1,666 offences compared with 2019/20.

Over the course of the pandemic, lockdowns and restrictions on daily life have **reduced the general level of crime and risk to the public** – as we move out of lockdown restrictions, crime levels will re-establish. Risk of harms inside the home, such as domestic abuse, have remained high and the complexity of needs for those seeking help has escalated, which has placed additional demands on services.

Anti-social behaviour remains at a higher level than in previous years. We are continuing to work successfully in partnership, through our Safer Towns Programme, to address the most persistent issues and support the communities affected and have increased local capacity to respond through jointly funded dedicated ASB caseworker posts (Truro and Penzance). We are continuing to work jointly with Housing to improve and increase availability of accommodation solutions.

What are the key trends for the Bodmin town area?

Along with other large towns in Cornwall, Bodmin town area can have higher volumes of crime, due to the concentration of people and activity there. It has a population of just over 16,400. The **all crime rate in Bodmin is greater than the average** for other large towns in Cornwall.

- The crime rate in Bodmin has **reduced by 9%** (107 offences) over the last 12 months. This reduction is higher than that seen in Cornwall and across the other large towns (6% and 7% respectively).

Most crime types have remained stable or have reduced in the Bodmin town area and rates of offences are generally below the average rate of the other urban areas. There are however a few exceptions:

- Alcohol related offences have increased by 12% or 19 offences. This increasing trend opposes the trends seen across the other urban areas and Cornwall as a whole
- ASB incidents have increased by 10% over the 12 month period
- There has been an increase in drug offences over the 12 month period. The increase can be attributed to a rise in possession offences rather than drug

Safer Bodmin Priorities

- Dangerous drug networks/county lines/cuckooing and the associated violence;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Repeat offenders and the need to break this cycle by targeting the most prolific offenders;
- Lack of provision for young people;
- Alcohol-related violence and public disorder;
- Communications, community engagement and building community resilience

trafficking, the latter of which is low in number and had previously remained relatively stable;

- Criminal Damage and Arson have increased over the last 12 months, although the volume of arson offences are low, making percentage changes volatile.
- Possession of weapons have tripled over the course of the year, however it should be noted that the volume of offences is low making up less than 2% of the total number of crimes recorded

Crime Overview

The table below provides a quick glance at all crime and disorder types in the Bodmin town focus area, describing whether the trend is increasing (▲), decreasing (▼) or stable (▶) and how this area compares with the urban area average for Cornwall (high ●, above average ●, average or lower ●).

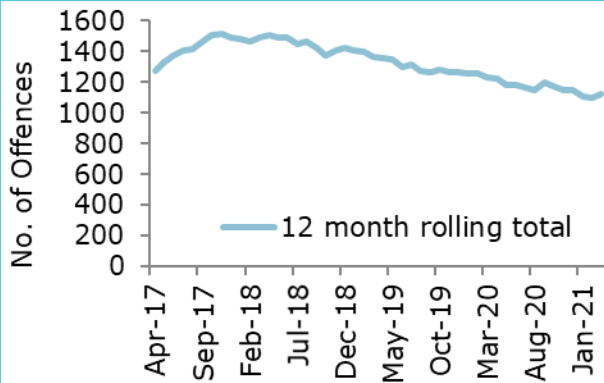
Crime / Incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Mar 21	Year ending Mar 20	Annual Change	Urban area comparison	Urban areas trend
All crime	▼	68.5	1,126	1,233	-9%	●	▼
Domestic Abuse (total incidents)	▶	29.3	482	485	-1%	●	▶
Domestic Abuse Crimes	▶	17.0	279	277	1%	●	▶
Rape	▶	1.2	19	16	19%	●	▶
Other Sexual Offences	▼	1.5	24	41	-41%	●	▼
Alcohol Related Crime	▲	11.1	183	164	12%	●	▼
Public Order Offences	▼	3.4	56	81	-31%	●	▼
Anti-social behaviour incidents	▲	35.2	578	526	10%	●	▲
Street Drinking/Begging/Drug Litter	▼	1.5	24	40	-40%	●	▶
Hate Crime	▶	1.2	19	21	-10%	●	▲
Homicide	▶	0.0	0	0	0%	●	▶
Violence with Injury	▶	13.7	226	223	1%	●	▼
Violence without Injury	▶	18.7	307	323	-5%	●	▲
Under 18 Victims of Crime	▶	32.4	120	123	-2%	●	▶
Drug Offences	▲	4.0	65	37	76%	●	▲
Possession of Weapons	▲	1.3	21	7	200%	●	▲
Dwelling burglary [1]	▼	3.2	21	38	-45%	●	▼
Non-dwelling burglary	▶	1.3	21	25	-16%	●	▼
Robbery	▶	0.4	6	3	100%	●	▶
Vehicle Offences	▼	0.9	15	28	-46%	●	▼
Shoplifting	▼	3.1	51	88	-42%	●	▼
Other Theft	▼	4.4	72	120	-40%	●	▼
Criminal Damage	▲	11.4	187	177	6%	●	▼
Arson	▲	0.8	13	6	117%	●	▼
Other Offences	▶	1.3	22	20	10%	●	▲

[1] based on rate per 1000 households

Note that caution should be taken in interpreting percentage change relating to small numbers (where there are less than 20 crimes per annum), due to the volatility of small numbers.

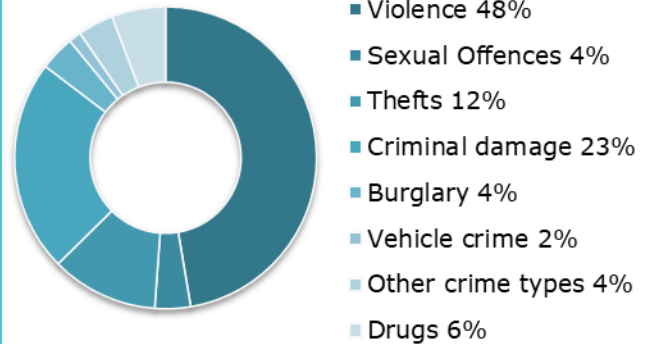
Trends and seasonality

Trend



After a period of increase in 2017 we can see the trend has now begun to reduce steadily.

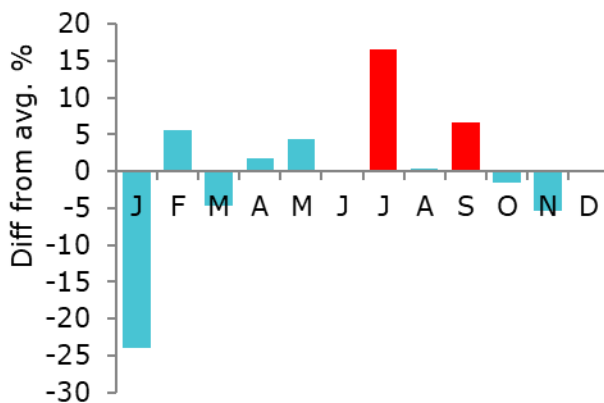
Offences



48% of all offences are categorised as violence
 The proportion of violence is slightly greater than the average seen across the other urban areas – 37%
 The proportion of drugs offences are also higher in Bodmin.

Seasonality

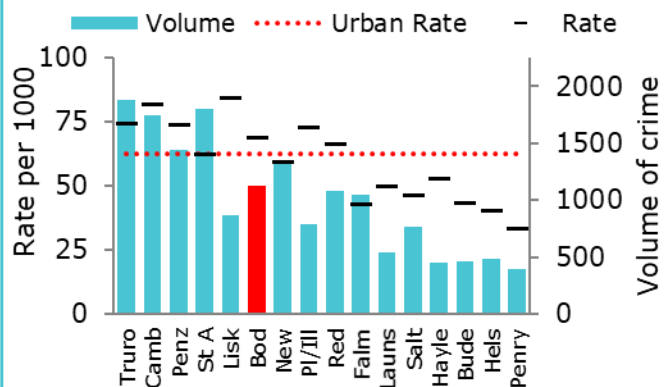
(based on a 3 year average)



There is no real seasonal pattern in Bodmin, although there is a higher than average number of crimes committed in July.

Comparison

(based on combined rate and volume)



Bodmin has a rate of crime that is slightly higher than the urban area average.
 Bodmin is ranked 6th for combined rate and volume of crime.

Rate of crime shows impact on residents whereas volume of crime indicates demand

Violence with Injury

Cornwall context

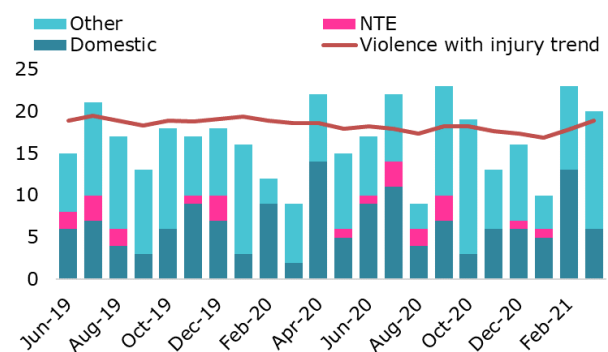
Just under **half of all recorded crime relates to violence** against the person. Although Night Time Economy (NTE) violence has **fallen dramatically due to extended COVID restrictions**, other types of violence have increased including **domestic abuse**, and less serious violence such as malicious communications offences (which includes on-line harassment), harassment and low-level assaults. The level of **NTE violence will increase again once restrictions are lifted**, as we saw last summer.

When we look at violence with injury in Bodmin we can see that the number of incidents has remained stable and that the rate of incidents is greater than that seen across the other urban areas.

- There have been increases in domestic abuse and alcohol related violence with injury. The rate of increase seen in domestic abuse is much greater than that seen across the other urban areas (+8%)

Violence with Injury in Bodmin	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Mar 21	Year ending Mar 20	Annual Change	Urban area comparison	Urban areas trend
Total Violence with Injury	▶	13.9	226	223	1%	●	▼
Alcohol related	▲	4.3	69	61	13%	●	▼
Victim aged under 18	▶	2.2	36	37	-3%	●	▼
Domestic Abuse	▲	5.5	89	68	31%	●	▲
Night time economy	▼	0.7	12	19	-37%	●	▼
Other	▶	6.7	108	113	-4%	●	▼
Not known	▼	1.0	17	23	-26%	●	▼

- The chart to the right illustrates the trend of violence with injury. We can see how **COVID restrictions affected the number of crimes** during the two national lockdown periods. Domestic abuse and other violence have been affected less by restrictions although there is still clearly a dip during the lockdown periods;
- It is **unlikely that the stable trend will continue** as restrictions are lifted and more people socialise and frequent NTE premises.



Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Cornwall context

Domestic abuse makes up a higher proportion of crime in Devon and Cornwall than similar areas elsewhere. 40% of violence with injury is domestic and this type of violence increased by 1% overall across Cornwall.

Sexual violence reported to the police has seen a steep rising trend over successive years, driven largely by increased reporting and improved recording. The trend has notably plateaued since 2019 and reported crimes reduced by 4% in the last year.

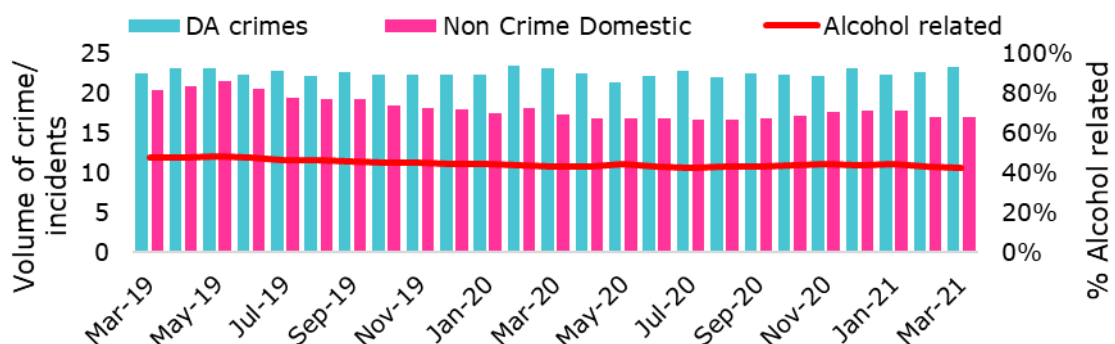
The rate **of domestic abuse crime is slightly higher** in Bodmin than the urban area average.

- The total number of incidents has remained stable when compared with the previous year and the rates are consistent to the average seen across the other urban areas;
- The number of sexual offences has also remained consistent when compared with the previous year. Rates of these incidents are consistent the average rate seen across the other urban areas.

Crime / Incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Mar 21	Year ending Mar 20	Annual Change	Urban areas	Trend
Domestic Abuse (total incidents)	▶	29.7	482	485	-1%	●	▶
Domestic Abuse Crimes	▶	17.2	279	277	1%	●	▶
Rape	▶	1.2	19	16	19%	●	▶
Other Sexual Offences	▼	1.5	24	41	-41%	●	▼

The chart below shows us how the trend of domestic abuse crimes and incidents varied over the course of the pandemic. We can see that the numbers **of crimes and incidents have remained fairly stable** throughout the lockdown periods in Bodmin.

- The number of alcohol related domestic abuse crimes have also remained stable in the town



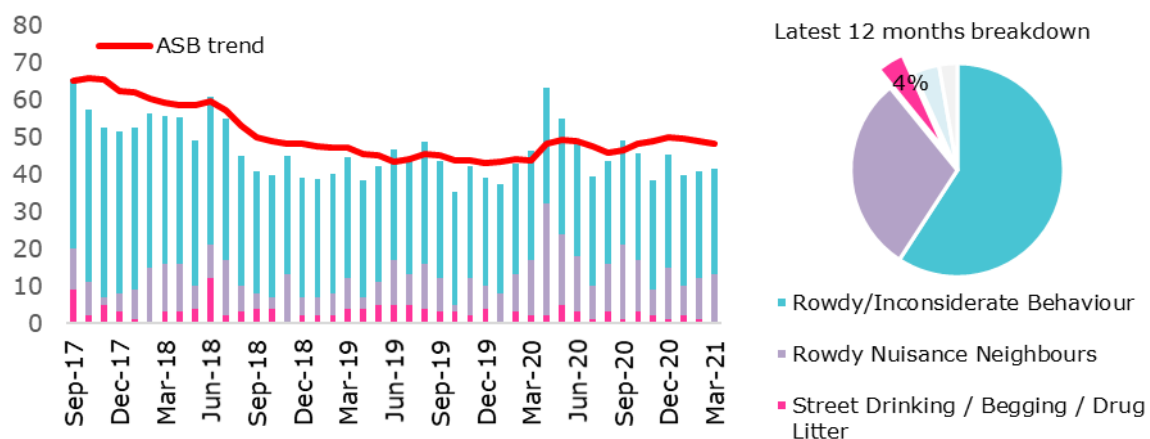
Anti-Social Behaviour

Cornwall context

Over the last couple of years, although the volume of incidents has continued to fall, our towns have seen escalating issues with **complex anti-social behaviour, street drinking, drug use and people on the streets**. The rise in **crack cocaine use** was an important driver initially but the **challenges of the pandemic have exacerbated pre-existing issues** over the last year, disproportionately affecting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

- **Since April 2020, across Cornwall we have seen a sharp rise** in anti-social behaviour reported to the police, alongside **increases in neighborhood tensions and reduced tolerance**, believed to be further contributing factors.
- A significant proportion of police recorded ASB has been linked to COVID restrictions this year – but this only partially explains the rise. Overall **COVID-related incidents account for 10%** of reports, but this has been as high as 26% in January 2021. In the lockdown periods, we have seen on average an extra 12% of incidents per month that would not have previously been reported as anti-social behaviour.

In 2020/21, the number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents reported to the police was **10% higher** than the previous year. After a substantial period of reduction we have seen the number of incidents begin to increase. The number of incidents reported **rose rapidly during the first national lockdown** although it should be noted that trends were rising prior to the COVID pandemic.



Street Drinking/Begging/Drug Litter incidents make up 4% of all reported incidents in the town which is much lower than the average of other urban areas (9%). These incidents have **reduced by 40%** over the last 12 months (16 incidents).

Crime / Incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Mar 21	Year ending Mar 20	Annual Change	Urban areas	Trend
Total ASB incidents	▲	35.2	578	526	10%	●	▲
Rowdy/Inconsiderate Behaviour	▶	20.8	342	350	-2%	●	▲
Rowdy Nuisance Neighbours	▲	10.5	173	101	71%	●	▲
Street Drinking / Begging / Drug Litter	▼	1.5	24	40	-40%	●	▶
Vehicle	▶	1.4	23	20	15%	●	▼
Other	▶	1.0	16	15	7%	●	▲

- The main increase can be seen in rowdy nuisance neighbours, where rates are higher than other urban area average. Contributory factors include people spending more time at home, which has increased awareness of and exposure to behaviours perceived as anti-social, alongside an actual rise in incidents, and reduced tolerance;

Problem use of drugs and alcohol

Cornwall context

Across Cornwall Drug trafficking offences, particularly relating to 'other class A' drugs, have almost doubled when compared with last year and **weapons possession** offences are also up on last year by 17%, noting that trends in these types of offence tend to **reflect proactive targeting and policing priorities**. These are low volume crime types and make up only 1% of all recorded crime in each case.

- In Bodmin we have seen an increase in both drug and weapon offences. Both crime types have high percentage increases which reflects the low volume of offences meaning the changes are volatile. The increase in weapon offences is worth noting and the rates are higher than that of the other urban areas.

Crime / Incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Mar 21	Year ending Mar 20	Annual Change	Urban areas	Trend
Trafficking of Drugs	▶	0.9	14	10	40%	●	▲
Possession of Weapons	▲	1.3	21	7	200%	●	▲

Young People and crime

Cornwall context

Across Cornwall we have seen 278 young offenders during the year who were responsible for 501 offences, both of which have reduced by 19% and 20% respectively. **Young people in Cornwall tend to be charged with less serious violence**, usually offences of common assault or assault with injury (ABH) making up 79% of all violence offences in the past year. 8% (14 offences) related to serious violence and a further 10% (18 offences) for possession of a weapon. Young people are also more likely to be charged with criminal damage and low level theft offences,

In Bodmin there have been 15 young offenders, who are resident in the town, that have been charged with 21 offences. Bodmin has a slightly higher level of offenders than the average for other urban areas. The number of offences involving a victim under 18 years of age has remained consistent with the previous year, however the **rate of incidents is significantly higher** than that across the other urban areas;

Crime / Incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Mar 21	Year ending Mar 20	Annual Change	Urban areas	Trend
Young Offenders	▶	3.8	14	15	-7%	●	▲
Total Offences	▶	5.7	21	25	-16%	●	▼
Under 18 Victims of Crime	▶	32.4	120	123	-2%	●	▶

Vulnerability Index

The Vulnerability Index is a **new small area risk model**, currently in the development phase, that looks at the cumulative impact of a range of community safety issues at town and small area (Lower Super Output Area²) level. The model uses rates of incidence per 1000 resident population compared with the Cornwall average.

LSOA Name	Population	Average	Violence with injury by month	Domestic Abuse by month	Residents in Drug treatment	Residents in Alcohol treatment	Shoplifting (rate)	Deprivation (Imd 2019)
Bodmin Westfield	1,838							
Bederkesa Court, Elizabeth Close	1,842							
Bodmin St Lawrences and Dunmere	1,505							
Kinsman Estate and Monument Way	1,667							
Bodmin St Mary's	1,146							
Bodmin Berrycombe and Cooksland	1,786							
Bodmin Town Centre and Berryfields	1,713							
Bodmin Carminnow Cross and Priory Road	2,320							
Bodmin Halgavor Road and Beacon	2,623							

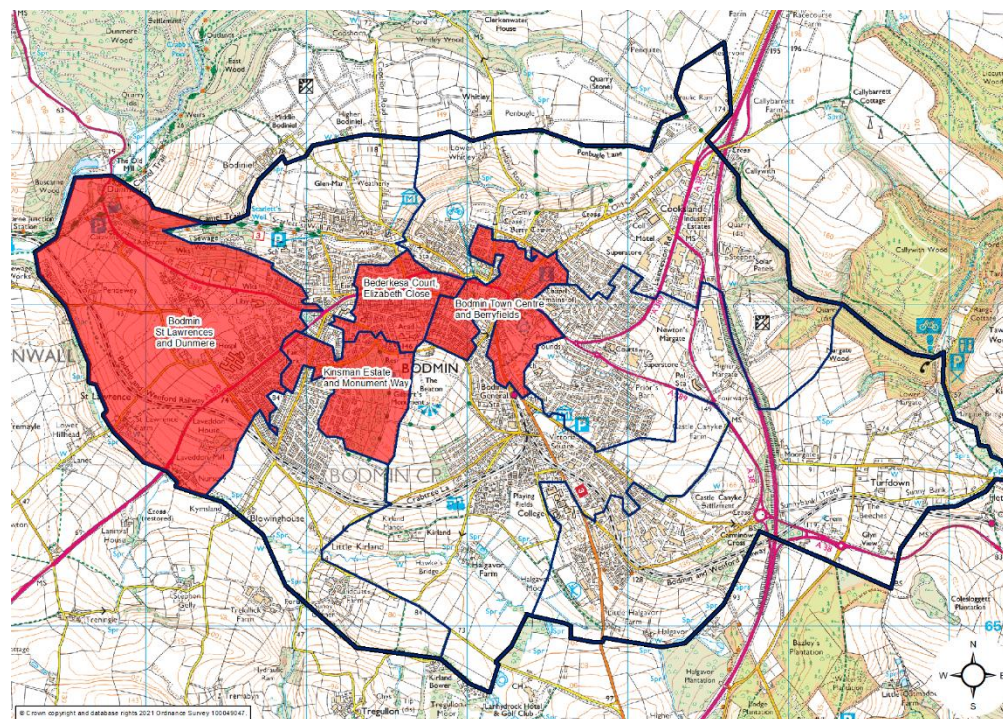
Please note that the numbers in this table are comparative against a score of 100 (Cornwall average) where scores that are in the top 20% are highlighted red and those that are in the top 40% highlighted amber.

² Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. The average population for these areas is approximately 1500 people.

Key Observations

Overall as a town the **Bodmin Area scores higher than average on the Vulnerability Index**. The area has pockets of deprivation with approximately 32% of the population living in areas that rank in the 20% most deprived LSOAs in the country³. This indicates that there is likely to be a high level of need in some domains, particularly in Income, Living Environment, Health and Employment⁴

- The areas with the greatest collective vulnerability across the selected indicators are:
 - Bederkesa Court, Elizabeth Close;
 - Kinsman Estate and Monument Way;
 - Bodmin Town Centre and Berryfields
- **Bodmin town Centre and Berryfields and Kinsman Estate areas** have higher rates of violence with injury and domestic abuse as well higher rates of residents known to drug and alcohol treatment services. The town area also has higher than average rates of shoplifting although it must be remembered that this includes the main high street;
- **The Bedkersea Court has** higher rates of residents engaged with the drug treatment service. It also has higher than average rates of domestic abuse in the area
- The 3 LSOA areas mentioned above are also ranked within the top 20% of most deprived areas in the UK.



³ Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Community Profiles <https://cornwall.communityinsight.org/>

⁴ Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 at LSOA level

What we are doing

In light of the changes brought about by COVID restrictions, Safer Bodmin have adapted and met virtually every 3 - 4 weeks since March 2020 to ensure that regular dynamic intelligence and updates about the rapidly changing nature of crime and risk across the town is communicated and acted upon. The new model has been praised by members of the partnership who are still fully engaged and appreciate the speed of actions and the frequency of the communications.

Local issues have been predominantly related to the impact of COVID restrictions and more recently anti-social behaviour in specific areas of Bodmin. Partners have worked closely together to address these issues. Throughout the pandemic, the focus has been very much on **supporting vulnerable families during lock down** and supporting access to services and provisions; partnership activity took place with Volunteer Cornwall. During the Summer months **Young People Cornwall began providing outreach to young people** in Bodmin and sharing key information between agencies. We supported social distancing measures in the town and encouraged the use of local businesses.

There was a multi-agency plan delivered in advance of the licensed premises reopening. No community tensions in relation to second homeowners emerged in Bodmin but there were reports from nearby Padstow and Polzeath during this period; we worked collectively to **promote positive news stories** and key messages to counteract negative social media reports. There has also been significant promotion of the availability Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and Drug and alcohol support services and how to access these during lockdown, along with awareness raising of scams and financial exploitation in particular with vulnerable groups. There have been some young people of concern in the town and a local Bodmin multi-agency child exploitation meeting held to discuss.

We supported Bodmin Town Council and the Hotline they ran to signpost people to services. Outside of the town, issues emerged with wild camping, fires and waste on Bodmin Moor – we worked with the rural crime partnership and Bodmin Moor Landowners Association to resolve the situation.

Safer Bodmin has its own page on the Safer Cornwall website; this is regularly updated along with social media posts regarding emerging issues from the East Cornwall Community Safety Officer's twitter profile.

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